

Raw Hide Gazette

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Volume 3, Issue 4

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

June 1997

Last Meeting Before Summer Break

Sister Rachel sent me a beautiful card and had a wonderful suggestion. Why not have a POT LUCK for the last meeting until September. Well, I called a couple of directors and they said why not and: "Bill, find a place to have it."

Sister Rachel, you don't have the slightest idea what you started. I called King County parks and they said (words to the effect) see you next year. We are all booked up for the summer. So I tried Seahurst (which now belongs to Burien) and Saltwater park which has an 800 number to the State — forget that! So I called The great City of Federal Way to see if we could get one of their parks ... Get in line, but we will send you an application -- ABSOLUTELY NO COVERED PLACES ... General volunteered his place through beautiful downtown Orting next to the Buffalo Ranch and he even went so far as to volunteer Linda Stockhausen's place next to the Llama Farm.

In the meantime, I had sent a copy of Sister Rachel's suggestion to **Bob Stelmack**. Bob called and said he had the perfect place. It is where we have the meeting in TUKWILA he has a BAR-B-Q Area and if it should rain (*Heaven forbid around here*) there is a place where we can go inside.

The Co-Op will furnish the hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, and the fixin's

(coals, etc.), but — not necessarily the cook so you kind people who intend to come. Deserts, salads, and Chef's surprises are more than welcome. Actually, they are downright necessary.

Mark your calendar! The usual place in Tukwila, Sunday, 2-4pm, June 29, 1997 is the next PSLAC meeting at the Foster Greens Apartment, Information Center (Recreation Center), 13865 - Interurban Ave., Tukwila, WA.

All members and sponsors are invited... Just a reminder that parking at the apartment complex is very tight and that 50 feet south of the meeting room is a business that is not open on Sunday - park at your own risk. See you then. Oh yeah — naturally spouses and fiancées etc. are welcome.

SEE YOU THERE
Bill Churchill, Federal Way



May Meeting

The MAY meeting was out of this world. No joke intended even though



Greg MacPherson, Owner

we had a new meeting place — right in the heart of downtown SEATTLE. Mariner's game, detours and all and would you



believe 29 people (and counting).

Our meeting was at **MacPherson Leather Company** AND THEY REALLY WENT ALL OUT

They had four people there to show us around and to answer all of our

questions. Their inventory is much different than most Leather workers are used to and we were all given a catalog, (two as a matter of fact ... MACPHEARSON's and OSBORNE's)

<http://www.nwlink.com/~stelmack/pslac.htm>



Terry Lee, Manager

The red carpet they laid down for us and the reception (even cake, cookies, coffee, soft drinks and a lot of real

smiles) It was one heck of a meeting.

Show Your Stuff

Again ... Those of you that went through ROB BARR'S seminar, why don't you bring your projects for us to see? I can see that you all learned a lot, for instance..I SHOWED THE THREE INITIALS THAT KEN IMUS did in my class. That is **ROB BARR**



style from beginning to end.

GAZETTE we can spend part of the summer making it and will be ready for his classes hopefully in the fall.



Those of you that were at the meeting, when I showed the BEAUTIFUL PROJECTS that **CINDY TATE** (Age 13) made and that she wanted EN-TERED INTO THE PUYALLUP FAIR this year ... Doesn't that light a fire under

And speaking for the CO-OP, WE SINCERELY THANK YOU ALL.

For those who were not able to attend the newsletter has included some extra photos of the store along with shots of Tony giving his demonstration.

all of you. **AUGUST IS THE DAY YOU HAVE TO HAVE THE ITEMS FOR THE FAIR!!!!!!...CINDY**, you have my vote, and we all hope **YOU AND KIM HAVE ALL THE BEST IN MISSOURI.**



Tony Ezettie Did it Again

His demo was very different this time. *I for one, learned a lot.* Especially the benefits of wet leather. Also his miniature saddle is coming along good. As a matter of fact, a lot of us can hardly wait until he gives his classes on "SADDLE MAKING". He just has to draw the pattern for the "DRAW-DOWN" that he made. (For all of us who haven't the foggiest of what a "DRAWDOWN" is; it is a contraption to hold a saddle real sturdy while the saddlemaker works on it) If Tony puts the pattern out in the

Tony was fantastic ... THANKS FROM ALL OF US!

You will notice that I said part of the summer for making the "DRAWDOWN"....THAT IS AFTER YOU HAVE MADE YOUR PROJECT FOR THE PUYALLUP FAIR!!!!.



Tony's Drawdown

New Directions

It seems that all three of the "LO-CAL" leather companies are looking forward to the millennium with great anticipation and actually restructuring



their modes of business to meet the needs of the new century.

MACPHEARSON'S (in Seattle) has opened up their whole building, going in different directions and trying to fill the needs of all Leatherworkers, no matter what type of project that someone might come up with including shoe finding and saddle parts. **THEY DEFINITELY DEAL WITH HOBBY TYPE PEOPLE.**

LEATHER FACTORY has added **AMERICAN SHOE** to their line. That means that they are now in the shoefinding business also. **LEATHER FACTORY** primarily deals in bulk leather and tools. Saddle makers and other professional leather people. **THEY DEFINITELY DEAL WITH HOBBY TYPE PEOPLE.**

TANDY LEATHER is probably going through the biggest change. **DON MOON**, the new president started turning **TANDY** to the 21st Century and now they have **FRED GERRING** as the new CEO of **TANDY**. Also I understand that **TANDY** is adding other crafts to their line, so the new name.. **TANDY LEATHER AND ASSOCIATED CRAFTS**. **TANDY IS DEFINITELY THE MOST ORIENTED TO THE HOBBY TYPE PEOPLE..**

Now we must not forget **HIDE PRODUCTIONS** by **GEORGE HURST**. A new company, that deals mainly with the **HOBBY TYPE PEOPLE**. George has a new line of

STAMPING TOOLS. I have bought about 12 of them and I must say that they are in the top of the line when it comes to **PRODUCTION STAMPS**. For instance, his **PEAR SHADERS** are just about the best I have ever

used. He sure does have some interesting backgrounds. Also George is getting famous with his **VIDEOS**.

I hope that I haven't slighted any of the above companies. **All of these companies are TOP NOTCH companies. ALL of these companies go all out for their customers.**

I have noticed down through the years that the employees in these companies are just absolutely fantastic. Having been a **TANDY** manager for almost twenty years and now a customer of all of the above companies for the last five or six years, I really notice the employees of the these companies. It is their knowledge and their good natured help for the customer that really makes these **LEATHER COMPANIES** go. They are the ones who will carry these companies to the 21st Century. They are the ones that tell you how to use the project you want to make. And does it feel good when one of these employees pats you on the back and calls everyone to tell you what an amazing and beautiful job that you did. It is the personal touch from the people you see in the stores of these companies that keeps you in one of the most rewarding hobbies that I have ever come in contact with.



And to pat our **CO-OP** on the back, the above companies do try to give a little bit more to us. Most give us discounts, even wholesale prices, and all give the **CO-OP AN EXTRA SMILE** and that lovely **PAT ON THE BACK**. **Our thanks to all of these companies.**

Some Odds & Ends

Our JUNE MEETING (this month) will be the last one until SEPTEMBER. It will be in TUKWILA, our usual meeting place.

I know that **POSITIVELY** that there are some **FANTASTIC** projects out there. **LETS BRING THEM TO ALL OF THE MEETINGS**. For instance, **TONY'S** saddle that he is making ... **TERRY SHINABERGER'S** wonderful **DREAMCATCHERS**. **JACK GORDON'S** Mountain Lion (in color) **FRED NACHBAR'S** Beautiful **BELTS**. **DUSTY WERT'S** suede **BREAD MACHINE COVER**. **BILL GAYLORD'S** homemade **HEADKNIVES**. The beautiful purses from **KEN IMUS**..This is just to name a few.

Bring your projects in and walk proud..You know ... **CO-OP MEMBERS ARE EXTREMELY GOOD AT PATTING YOU ON THE BACK** too. After all, that is what this **CO-OP** is all about ... **HELPING OTHERS** ... And

WE ALL CAN LEARN FROM YOU.

As for the next DEMONSTRATION --We will come up with something.

Bill Churchill
Federal Way, WA



The Mystery Mold

I brought a "MYSTERY MOLD" to the meeting in MAY, and one or two figured it out. So I will try to explain it. Materials needed: Plywood..(I used 1/4inch and laminated it). 8/10 Ounce Carving leather..approximately 12" X 12". Regular wood glue (Elmer's will work fine) Common tacks, and sandpaper (for the plywood). Common COPING SAW.

The BASE Mold: For a pattern I used a regular dinner plate for the bottom. Using a COPING SAW, cut out three circles from the plywood the size of a dinner plate and then cement them together using regular wood glue. Be sure that they are as flush on the edges that you can get them. (this will save a lot of sanding). Using sandpaper, sand all around the edge and get it a smooth as you can. Then I used a saucer for a pattern and saw one circle out of the plywood and cement this in the exact center of the base. Now sand this, trying to feather the edges (about a quarter

of an inch from the edge) so that the edges of the smaller circle will gradually slope to the base. Then using your saucer for a pattern draw a circle on another piece of plywood except this time you add 1/8th of an inch to the diameter. Then using your plate, draw a circle on the plywood putting the smaller circle exactly in the middle of the larger circle. Using your COPING SAW, saw around the outer edge (this will look exactly like your original three circles that you sawed for the base) and then drill a hole inside the small circle and then remove the blade from one end of your saw and stick it through the hole, reattach your blade and cut out the inner circle.

Now you have a "DOUGHNUT" looking circle. The inside of the "DOUGHNUT CIRCLE" has to be sanded very smooth. Lay the two



plywood molds aside and let's start on the leather. I won't go into the carving, put what ever design that you want.....
IF YOU CARVE A DESIGN ... DO NOT PUT A FINISH ON AT THIS TIME!!!!!!

Wet the leather (See page three of Al Stohlman's Cases, Volume 1, as to how to wet your leather for molding). Laying the leather exact center over the mold gently mold over the base. After you have molded the leather over the

base put the "DOUGHNUT" on the leather and press down. This will hold your leather STRAIGHT to the base. Then I suggest you get about four small "C-CLAMPS" and clamp the "DOUGHNUT" over the formed leather to the base. Take the EXCESS LEATHER and tack to the bottom of the base Pull this tight and TAKE OUT ALL FOLDS, WRINKLES, AND MAKE THE LEATHER ON THE SIDE OF THE MOLD AS SMOOTH AS POSSIBLE. Let completely dry (at least 24 hour, probably 48 hours) When dry, take off the C-CLAMPS and the DOUGHNUT and with a very sharp knife, trim the leather exactly even with the bottom of the mold. (That will leave the excess leather with the tacks on the bottom). Put the finish of your choice on. I would suggest a water retarding finish.

Before you use your LEATHER FRISBEE, I would suggest you tie up your dog.

Mike Fenton, Art teacher at EVERGREEN SR. HIGH in White Center, WA. made the first Leather Frisbee I ever saw, only he cut notches and created the rolled edges by sewing all around the FRISBEE

Bill Churchill, Federal Way, WA

Classifying & Identifying Types of Leather

(ed. note: Found this section while surfing the Web and thought it was informative and somewhat humorous)

If you've got a whole pile of leather scraps from somewhere, how do you tell whether it's vegetable or Chrome or some other kind of tanned? My immediate guess, since it comes in a wide variety of interesting colors, is that it's NOT vegetable leather, but how do you tell? **(Boil it, and see if it gets hard? -- like Cuir Bouilli)**

As I mentioned in a previous posting,

about the only type of true oil-tanned leather widely available today (to my knowledge) is chamois of the type used in garments and for washing cars. As this type of leather is fairly easily identified (light brown, stretchy, suede-like on both sides, may smell like whatever oil was used) we can probably rule out oil tanned. Veg-tanned leather is usually tan to light brownish. Although it is usually sold undyed, even if it is, cutting it and examining the cross section should reveal the characteristic color. Because of the applications for which it is typically prepared, commercial veg-tan is fairly stiff and not very stretchy.

Alum tawed skins are fairly rare these days due to their sensitivity to moisture.

Chrome tanned leather is probably the most common leather nowadays. Used for everything from garments to shoes. Unless it is dyed straight through, you can usually detect it by cutting and looking for the characteristic light grey blue color that the chromium sulphate imparts to the leather. The leather can be quite soft and stretchy. As different types of leathers tend to be rather distinctive, once you see the different types identified, it's usually pretty easy to identify leather. There are oddball leathers that can be hard to peg, but most of the stuff that is mass-produced today falls into one of a few categories. Go to a place that sells leather, and look at some veg-tan, and then look at some chrome-tanned. See and feel the difference.

Well, the color of the animals fur can contribute to the color of the underlying skin, but it depends on how much of the pigment/hair fragments are removed in the unhairing process. Modern methods of hair removal are pretty effective, especially on calf.

More important is where the tannin came from. Different plant materials will give different colors. Leather tanned with oak bark will be different from that tanned with sumac leaves, which is different from that tanned

with Acacia pods. This is especially true of leathers tanned by period methods. Today, there is incentive to remove as much of the coloring matter as possible from the tanning liquors so that the leather will be pale, and therefore easier to dye (at least in lighter shades).

If your leather is "flesh" tone (Caucasian) or something in that visual range, dry and stiff (depending on how thick it is) like cardboard, it is vegetable tanned. Examples include unstained Baseball Gloves, Saddles, and most SCA armor. Vegetable tanned leather absorbs water fairly well.

I'd sprinkle a few 'probably's and 'usually's in there. These leathers are like that because they are, to some extent, made to be that way. Veg-tanned leather can be soft, greasy, etc. It just isn't usually made that way. High quality bookbinding leather is often veg-tanned, but it doesn't have quite the same feel we usually associate with veg-tan.

If it has hair, it's probably NOT vegetable tanned. If it's soft, thin and flexible, it's "probably" not vegetable tanned, but rather "oil tanned", but I'd be careful here. Some leathers that are called 'oil-tanned' are really just chrome and/or veg-tanned leathers which have been heavily fat liquored (all leathers are fat-liquored to some extent). True oil tanned leathers are leathers that are impregnated with oil (the grain layer is typically removed to facilitate penetration from both sides), and then the oil is oxidized (by smoking in the case of Native American tradition), and the residue is often washed out. Chamois, of the sort used to wash cars is about the only true oil-tanned leather manufactured commercially these days (to my knowledge). Buck/brain/smoke tanning, the Native American variant of oil-tanning, is not performed on an industrial scale as far as I know. Note the best calfskin (IMO) is vegetable tanned, but is soft and flexible and thin.

If it's chromium Tanned (or Latigo) it

will often have a thin white layer if you cut it in half. That line is the chemicals that remain in the leather. Sometimes, though, they're dyed right through so the characteristic (White, Gray or Blue Gray) color is hard to spot. Vegetable tanned scrap is generally thicker 4 oz+, and either oiled or waxed if finished at all. I'd say that most hides are chrome-tanned these days. Most garment leather is Latigo. **DO NOT** make knife scabbards out of it since it "can" corrode the metal that it comes in contact with.

If it's got Plastic on one side, the Gods only know what it is. If it's got what appears to be a fabric pattern the flesh side, it may well be the skin of the sacred Nauga.

You could try wetting a piece and then stamping or pressing a mark into it. If the mark has a crisp impression afterward, the leather is veg. If the impression is "just" discernable, it is chrome tanned. Also if it's a chalky white color, it is probably alum tanned. Chrome tanned, undyed leather is a pearl grey, faintly bluish tint.

from Leather FAQ compiled by Diarmuid Ui Dhuinn

Newest Members

A warm welcome to our newest members in attendance — **Charlie Brown** (found us on the Internet) and **Debra & Umberto Rodriguez!!!**

Letter Excerpt to Churchill

(ed. note: I saw a note to Bill Churchill from Sister Racheal that expresses a lot of the feelings that we at PSLAC have about Bill — the bold text says it all!)

....Take care, **and thanks for all you do to keep the group going.**

Sincerely,
/s/ Sister Racheal

MEGA Support from Texas

Andy and Jan Stasiak (Andy is the manager of the **Arlington, Texas Tandy Store**) who are lifetime charter members of P.S.L.A.C. finally finished unpacking and sent us 14 beginning leather craft books, 1 set basic tools, mallet, and numerous kits left over from Andy's many Boy Scout outings here in the Northwest and from what I have read, in Texas. All of this for children's leather!!!!!! We all thank the Stasiak family.

Payment Of Co-Op Dues

After due consideration we have decided that if any member is more than two months in arrears with their dues, they will be removed from the rolls. This means that a CHARTER MEMBER will lose their status. The RAWHIDE GAZETTE will no longer be sent AND you will lose your privileges with TANDY, THE LEATHER FACTORY, MACPHEARSONS, per your discounts. The costs of producing the RAWHIDE GAZETTE are increasing, and with the extra costs of the contests, etc., we will have to enforce this. Also we would like to have some outings (picnics etc.) and we have to build up our bank account. If you are delinquent in your dues, now is the time to pay them. JUNE 30, 1997 is the effective date of this communication.



Our ultimate goal is to have everyone's enrollment payment to be on the FIRST OF JUNE each YEAR. That means that soon, those of you that have already paid will be 'PRO-RATED' and then your CO-OP payments will be on the FIRST OF JUNE (FISCAL YEAR). This not only will make book-keeping much easier, it will also make it much easier for you to know when your payment for the next year is due. Actually it is on your address label, but from past experience we sadly find out that a few of you don't look at the label. LOOK AT YOUR LABEL AND IF YOU ARE DELINQUENT, PAY YOUR DUES

"The Executive Committee" —
General Seymour (360) 893-6759, Bill Churchill (206) 839-3038, Don Betts (206) 848-2649, Fred Nachbar (360) 876-6227 and Chuck Carlson (206) 848-5359

The Tenino Countdown Continues

June 1, 1997 —FORTY EIGHT DAYS TO TENINO!!!!!!

May Meeting Bits & Pieces

Bill showed an "almost" finished Iron Dice Cup that, for luck, contained some leather carving on the inside. Instead of a single rabbits foot -- he put in the whole rabbit!

The new tools from George Hurst's Hide Crafter Productions were passed around and included four that could be used in making Bill "Playing Card Holders

-- out of rounders". They were the card suits: heart, club, spade, and diamond (O86, O87, O88 and O89 respectively at \$5.00 each). Give Hide Crafter a call at 817-263-5277 for a catalog.

Bill showed us a place to get patterns. The Tandy flyers have patterns in them in most issues. Also you can get some patterns from the Internet at the Tandy Leather Home Page located at:

<http://www.tandycrafts.com/leather/index.html>

Our raffle, for a small selection of old tools, was won by **Earl** and took in \$60 for our Children's Leather project.

The monthly contest was for the best belt. We had four belts and the winner was **Fred Nachbar**. You see here



Fred looking on as the voting took place. Fred's belt was the one at the bottom of the belt picture.

Congratulations to Fred!

Next months contest is for a small project of your own choosing. So bring it to the meeting! This is your notice.

RawHide Gazette On-line

The Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op can be found at <http://www.nwlink.com/~stelmack/pslac.htm>

If you need the **UserId** and **Password** for the subscription pages, just contact the RawHide Gazette at: (206)431-5166 or email at stelmack@nwlink.com -- of course the free password information is just for the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op members. Those on the Internet still need the \$10 per year subscription rate.

Photos taken and sent in to the PSLAC are, space and focus permitting, used here in the printed newsletter. They are also posted, in living color, on the Internet.

Your Photos here -- if you send them in to:

PSLAC (ph. 206-431-5166)
c/o Bob Stelmack
13820 - 56th Ave S, #301
Seattle, WA 98168-4779



If you don't send in some pictures of your work I threaten to leave Bill's picture here every month!

THE PUYALLUP FAIR

Thinking about the Fair? It's about that time!

The Fair is scheduled for Friday, September 5th through Sunday, September 21st. See the internet for more details:

<http://www.thefair.com>

PSLAC Membership Application

If you know someone who is interested in leathercraft — give them this information:

Puget Sound Leather Artisan Co-Op MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YOUR NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: (____)-_____

We publish a membership list with our members expertise listed. This list is used to refer possible clients to the best person for the job. Tell a little about yourself, how you got started in leather, what your favorite things to do in leather and other crafts and/or art forms.

Send this form along with your first years dues (\$24.00) to one of the directors listed below:

Bill Churchill

1471 South 302nd
Federal Way, WA 98003
(206) 839-3038

General Seymour

17915 212th Ave. E.
Orting, WA, 98360-9622
(360) 893-6759

Fred Natchbar

1324 Flower Ave.
Port Orchard, WA 98366
(206)- 876-6227

Don Betts

12613 67th Ave. E.,
Puyallup, WA 98373
(206) 848-2649

If you would like to subscribe to The Leather Crafters & Saddlers Journal through the Co-Op and include an additional \$24.00 for a one year subscription.

Letters to the Editor (& PSLAC)....

(ed. note: This was written in the back of an A&W restaurant bag, post marked from Yakima — the last one was from Puyallup -- and to answer the last line of the letter, I don't know who is writing these letters, but I like the interest!)

To **Bob S & PSLAC**

5-30-97

With the meeting in May moved up and the Gazette mailed early, I goofed around and didn't get a chance to let the "PSLAC-ers" know what I thought about **Dale "B's"** demo in April. (Thought you were going to "get-by" without a comment from me, huh? WRONG!!!) — I'm really sneakie!!

I'm IMPRESSED!! GREAT JOB!!! Dale can sure do some impressive things with rawhide! They pretty much speak for themselves. And he sure knows his stuff — lots of info with the demo! But Dale seemed a little nervous!! After all, he was just talking to friends.

And while I'm on the subject of NERVOUS. I hear **Tony** was "a bit" nervous with the May demo, on slicking leather. Sorry I missed it! Would liked to have been there when he had his Brain Fart!

If there was an award for Colorful, Fred's belts would sure win First Prize!! Excellent, huh?

By the way — **Dusty**, great cookies at April's meeting!! But the PSLAC ones — wasn't sure if I should eat them, or wear them as a badge!!! NICE TOUCH!!!

Hey friends, "**PSLAC'ers**", when I first wrote a letter, I really surprised, that it was actually published!!! But,

I've been hoping, that some of you would jump on the band wagon and also write your comments down.....
Hello!! — Anyone out there?

Looking forward to the June meeting! Don't have a clue what's what, or who's doing it, but I'm sure it'll be another interesting adventure into the art of creating Leather!!!

/s/ Standing on the sidelines

(By the way, figured out who I am yet?)



As a member of the IIGL (International Internet Leathercrafters Guild) we all received a sew-on patch with the Guild's Logo. I thought it was OK, but started to think about the PSLAC and thought it might be nice to have a logo for us. What do you think? Anyone got any ideas? If so, bring them to the next meeting ...or... send them in. Sure would be nice to have a logo! (Or maybe we have one and I'm the only one who doesn't know about it.)

Bob Stelmack
Tukwila, WA